





Toledo, Ohio amateur, Robert F. Solon, WD8LKI, said that it would be confusing even with an added identifier. The proposal was supported by those commenters who resisted any waiting period and wanted immediate operation as a reward for having successfully passed the Novice operator license examination.

The International Radio Regulations (Geneva, 1976) No. 2735, provide that an administration shall take such measures as it judges necessary to verify the operational and technical qualifications of any person who wishes to operate an amateur radio station.

In denying the Petition, Ralph Haller, N4RH - Chief of the FCC's Private Radio Bureau, said, "...at the time the petition was filed, our applications processing facility was experiencing an unusually heavy workload. In March, 1987, Gettysburg received 6,083 applications for Novice operator licenses, compared to the average monthly receipt of 1,860 of such applications. Apparently this anomaly was caused by applicants seeking to avoid new examination requirements that are associated with the new privileges for Novice operators. As a result, there was a temporary waiting period during which the processing time exceeded our goal of 30 days. This situation has returned to normal. We now usually process amateur license applications in 18 to 21 days."

Haller said, "The present system for issuance of Novice operator licenses is a great improvement over the "mailback" system that was in effect prior to 1983. The old system was much more time consuming because it required the telegraphy examination and the written examination to be administered at different times, and required multiple mailings between the volunteer examiner and the FCC."

"On balance, it appears that the application processing period is not unreasonable. In view of the relatively short time that it takes to process an applications, the marginal benefits to be derived by authorizing successful Novice operator examinees temporary operating authority are outweighed by the disadvantages that could occur."

"Additionally, upon analysis, an instant licensing proposal appears contrary to the requirements of International Law (since Novice operation would begin prior to FCC verification of the examinee's qualifications). Therefore, the initiation of a rulemaking proceeding by the full Commission is not warranted," Haller wrote in the December Order. The fact that the proposal lacked support by the American Radio Relay League also contributed to its defeat.

#### o Ham Radio and High Cancer Rate Link

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The state of Washington is still trying to connect electromagnetic field and the incidence of cancer. The Associated Press circulated a news story on January 3rd with a Tacoma, Washington, dateline stating "Amateur radio

operators in Washington and California appear to die at abnormally high rates from several forms of cancer..."

Dr. Samuel Milham, Jr., of the Washington Department of Social and Health Services studied the deaths of 2,485 Washington and California ham operators between 1979 and 1984.

He reported in the American Journal of Epidemiology that the group had a 24.1% higher incidence of leukemia, 23.6% higher rate of lymphatic and blood-forming organ cancers ...and 15.4% more prostate cancer.

The study "indicates that amateur radio operator licensees in Washington state and California have significant excess mortality due to acute myeloid leukemia, multiple, myeloma and perhaps certain types of malignant lymphoma," Milham reported.

The Electric Power Research Institute in Palo Alto, California, warned that studies like Milham's can be misinterpreted. Leonard Sagan, program manager at the institute said his research has not shown whether electricity causes cancer ...and "if it does, it's rare."

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